

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07
FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /149 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 10068

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, CA
SUBJECT: SEAL HUNT QUOTAS FOR 1978

1. NOVEMBER 28, CANADIAN FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LEBLANC
ANNOUNCED 1978 EAST COAST SEAL HUNT QUOTAS.

2. TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) FOR ENTIRE NORTHWEST
ATLANTIC SET AT 180,000 HARP SEALS (INCLUDING 10,000 FOR
GREENLAND, CANADIAN ARCTIC AND LABRADOR). TOTAL FOR GULF
OF ST. LAWRENCE AND FRONT (ICE FIELDS NORTHEAST OF NEW-
FOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR) INCREASED TO 170,000 FROM 160,100
IN 1977. QUOTAS INCLUDE FOR FIRST TIME SEALS TAKEN AS
SCIENTIFIC SAMPLES. IN ANNOUNCING 6 PERCENT TAC INCREASE,
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MINISTER LEBLANC NOTED SCIENTISTS HAVE ADVISED CURRENT
POPULATION OF HARP SEALS COULD SUSTAIN CATCH OF 227,000 TO
245,000. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY IS TO ALLOW
CURRENT POPULATION INCREASE TO CONTINUE BY PERMITTING NO
MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS OF SUSTAINABLE YIELD TO BE TAKEN
IN 1978.

3. CANADA'S SHARE OF CATCH INCREASED FROM 125,000 IN 1977 TO 135,000 IN 1978. ALLOCATION TO CANADIAN LARGE VESSELS AT FRONT NOT TO EXCEED 1977 QUOTA OF 62,000. NORWAY'S SHARE REMAINS AT 35,000.

4. OFFICIAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATES SET FOR MARCH 10 AND APRIL 24, BUT OPENING DATE COULD VARY DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS THEN.

5. HOODED SEAL SEASON TO OPEN ABOUT 10 DAYS AFTER HARP SEAL SEASON OPENS, BUT NO LATER THAN MARCH 21, 1978. TAC REMAINS AT 15,000. QUOTA OF 6,000 ALLOCATED TO NORWAY, AND CANADIAN FLEET IS TO TAKE UP TO 6,000 BY MARCH 27, WHEN REMAINING 3,000 TO BE AVAILABLE TO VESSELS OF EITHER COUNTRY.

6. 1977 CONSERVATION MEASURE REQUIRING THAT KILL OF ADULT FEMALE HOODED SEALS BE RESTRICTED TO TEN PERCENT OF TOTAL CATCH WAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED FOR 1978 BY CHANGE IN RESTRICTION TO SEVEN AND A HALF PERCENT OF TOTAL CATCH. SCIENTISTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT MANAGEMENT REGIME FOR HOODED SEALS ALSO ALLOWS THIS POPULATION TO INCREASE.

7. PRELIMINARY STATISTICS INDICATE 1977 CATCH OF HARP SEALS AT FRONT AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE WAS 155,000 OF 160,000 ALLOCATION, WHILE HOODED SEALS CATCH WAS 12,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 15,000 ALLOCATION.

8. COMMENT: ALLOCATION OF 1978 QUOTAS MARKS OPENING

OF PERENNIAL BATTLE BETWEEN GOC AND CRITICS OF SEAL HUNT. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING QUOTA ANNOUNCEMENT, GOC SCIENTISTS APPARENTLY PERSUADED ALL DOMESTIC CRITICS EXCEPT GREENPEACE FOUNDATION THAT SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE FOR INCREASED TAC IS SOUND. EVEN CANADIAN HUMANE SOCIETY AGREED THAT INCREASED TAC WOULD NOT ENDANGER SEAL POPULATION.

9. THIS YEAR, GOC PLANS TO LAUNCH INTENSIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AGAINST CRITICS OF HUNT. GOC WILL STRESS THAT QUOTAS ARE BASED ON SCIENTIFICALLY VALID PRINCIPLES, THAT HUNTING METHODS ARE HUMANE, AND THAT EDIBLE PRODUCTS ACCOUNT FOR INCREASING PROPORTION OF VALUE OF HARVEST FROM A RENEWABLE RESOURCE. ON LATTER POINT, GOC OFFICIALS SAY THAT FLIPPERS, CARCASSES AND OIL NOW MAKE UP OVER HALF OF VALUE OF HARVEST BY HUNTERS OPERATING FROM LARGE VESSELS NORTHEAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND--THE HUNTING

AREA WHICH HAS BEEN FOCAL POINT FOR MUCH OF CONTROVERSY
OVER HUNT. ENDERS

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